

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment ~~to be worn by a human, said garment~~ comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, ~~and~~

~~wherein when said garment is worn by said human,~~ said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of ~~the a knee joint~~ knee joint of ~~said human~~ a wearer and extends obliquely from a superior side of said ~~knee joint~~ knee joint through at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said ~~human~~ wearer and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said ~~human~~ wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, ~~and~~

said garment supports said knee joint and provides full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said ~~human~~ wearer.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 34, wherein said first portion further covers a lateral side of the patella and a part of the lateral inferior side of the patella,

thereby ~~maintaining~~ supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support ~~garment to be worn by a human,~~
~~said garment~~ comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, ~~and~~

~~wherein when said garment is worn by said human,~~ said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of ~~the a knee joint~~ knee joint of ~~said human~~ a wearer and extends obliquely from a superior side of said ~~knee joint~~ knee joint through at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length of the anterior surface of the corresponding thigh of said ~~human~~ wearer and along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said ~~human~~ wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh,

thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, supporting said knee joint, and providing full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, which further includes a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said third portion extends, on the posterior side of the wearer, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major; and

which further includes a fourth stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said fourth portion extends, on the anterior side of the wearer, a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus ~~retus~~ rectus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis ~~as portion~~ portion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, wherein when said garment is capable of covering the body of said ~~human~~ wearer from the waistline to a superior side of the ankles.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 37, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said ~~human~~ wearer.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 40, said first portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterale on the medial side of the knee joint of said human wearer;

extends approximately along a periphery on the medial side of the patella to surround not less than approximately 1/4 of said periphery and covers at least a part of an inferior region of said patella; and

reaches a side of a superior part of the musculus gastrocnemius on the medial side; and

on a superior side of said knee joint, extends from a medial side to a lateral side of the thigh via an anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius to a vicinity of the trochanter major passing a superior part of the musculus rectus femoris.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first portion further extends from a vicinity of the trochanter major to a vicinity of the waist along the tractus iliotibialis.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first portion further covers at least a part of a superior region of the patella by further extending thereto approximately from a vicinity of the periphery of said patella on the medial side of said patella.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 41, which further includes a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said third portion extends from a vicinity of the trochanter major downward approximately along the tratus iliotibialis to a lateral side of the patella;

covers at least a part of the inferior region of the patella extending from the lateral side thereof; and

reaches a side of a superior part of the musculus gastrocnemius on the lateral side.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 41, wherein said first portion further includes, on a superior side of said knee joint, a part extending approximately along at least one corresponding muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus semitendinosus, (ii) the musculus semimembranosus, and (iii) the musculus gracilis to a vicinity selected from the group consisting of (i) the vicinity of the crotch and (ii) the vicinity of the sulcus gluteus.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 40, which further includes a third stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said third portion extends, on the posterior side of the human, from the vertebrae lumbales to the os sacrum, through an approximately middle parts of the right and left musculus gluteus maximus in a direction approximately along said musculus gluteus maximus via the vicinity of the top bulge of the hip to at least the vicinity of the trochanter major; and

which further includes a fourth stretchable portion having a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion, wherein said fourth portion extends, on the anterior side of the wearer, a position in the hypergastric region of the musculus ~~retus~~ rectus abdominis obliquely downward in the direction approximately along the right and left musculus obliquus internis abdominis ~~as portion~~ portion to the vicinity of the trochanter major.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment ~~to be worn by a human,~~ ~~said garment~~ comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion ~~and~~

~~wherein when said garment is worn by said human,~~ said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of ~~the knee joint~~ a knee joint of ~~said human~~ a wearer, extends approximately along a vicinity of the periphery of the patella of said human on a medial side thereof to surround said patella through at least approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the periphery of said patella to cover at least a part of an inferior region of said patella and extends to a side of a muscle selected from the group consisting of (i) the musculus gastrocnemius, (ii) the musculus soleus, or (iii) a combination thereof; and on a superior side of said knee-joint extends obliquely from a medial side to a lateral side of the corresponding thigh through the anterior surface of said thigh, along the portion of the corresponding musculus sartorius of said ~~human~~ wearer beneath said anterior surface of said thigh, and to a vicinity of the corresponding trochanter major and over a superior part of the musculus rectus femoris,

thereby applying greater pressure along said anterior surface of said musculus sartorius than said second portion applies to portions of said thigh that are covered by said second portion, supporting said knee joint, and providing full degrees of freedom of movement of said knee joint.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first portion further extends from said vicinity of said trochanter major to a vicinity of the waist of said human along the ~~traetis~~ tractus iliotibialis.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first portion further covers to at least a part of a superior region of the corresponding patella and extends to said part of said superior patella region from a vicinity of the periphery of said patella on the medial side of said patella.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A garment as defined in claim 47, wherein said first portion further extends obliquely upward from a side of the corresponding musculus gastrocnemius

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said ~~human~~ wearer.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): A garment as defined in claim 58, wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the inferior sides of the knees of said ~~human~~ wearer.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment ~~to be worn by a human,~~
~~said garment~~ comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,
wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion ~~and~~
~~wherein when said garment is worn by said human,~~ said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of ~~the knee joint~~ a knee joint of ~~said human~~ a wearer,

extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the medial side of the patella to cover a part of an inferior region of the patella, reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the medial side of the musculus soleus, and

on the superior side of the knee joint, extends from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, and

wherein said first portion includes a triangle-shaped part on the lateral inferior side of the patella, and wherein a vertex of a projecting part of said first portion of a part of the inferior region of the patella which reaches a side of the musculus gastrocnemius and the musculus soleus on the medial side contacts a vertex of said triangle-shaped part at a position on the inferior side of the patella, thereby ~~maintaining~~ supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint; and

wherein said garment has a length capable of covering at least the region from the waistline to the superior sides of the ankles of said ~~human~~ wearer.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): A tights-type leg support garment ~~to be worn by a human,~~
~~said garment~~ comprising:

a first stretchable portion and a second stretchable portion,

wherein said first stretchable portion has a greater straining force than said second stretchable portion ~~and~~

~~wherein when said garment is worn by said human,~~ said first stretchable portion substantially covers the ligamentum collaterallis on a medial side of ~~the knee joint~~ a knee joint of ~~said human~~ a wearer,

extends approximately along a periphery of the vicinity of the patella on the medial side of said ~~human~~ wearer around a part of periphery the patella to cover an inferior region of the patella, ~~extnds~~ extends obliquely through the anterior side of the lower leg region to the lateral side of said ~~human~~ wearer in the direction of the malleolus lateralis, and

on the superior side of the knee joint, extends from the medial side to the lateral side of the thigh via the anterior side thereof approximately along the musculus sartorius toward the vicinity of the trochanter major, thereby ~~maintaining~~ supporting the knee joint without decreasing the freedom of movement of said knee joint.